



Student Fee Board

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10/28/22

Topic: Public Meeting

Present:

- **Voting members:** Lawrence Miller, Xiaoru (Tony) Shi, Jada Quinland, Noah Robertson, Yidi Wang, Brian Johnson, Conor Kelly, Ava Philips, Najee Rodriguez, Sydney Gibbard
- **Nonvoting members:** Alexa Clayton, Jolinda Wilson, Barry Bram

Absent:

- **Voting members:** Dallas Zebrowski, Cierra Chandler
- **Nonvoting members:** Zander Golden

Agenda:

I. Call to Order and Opening Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 8:02 a.m.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Motioned, seconded.

III. Adoption of the Minutes (October 21th, 2022)

Motioned, seconded.

IV. Public Comment

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

A. Internal Development Changes

1. Operating Guidelines Changes

a) Committee Definitions

b) Public Comment Duration

Lawrence: For the communications committee, the draft would be “updates USFB’s social media channels and website, maintain working relationships with all relevant media sources and outlets, serve as primary contact....” This would go under Article 6, underneath standing subcommittees.

For ID committee, the draft would be “This committee drafts and recommends change of language of the Handbook and Operating Guidelines based on initiatives from members of UPSFB....”

For equity fund - “responsible for reviewing initial language of the equity fund....”

For public comment, we could make a new section. For right now, we’ll say it’ll go under Article 14. The tentative draft is “maximum of 2 minutes to speak. If any individual wishes to represent an organization they are affiliated with... max of 5 minutes...”

Motioned, seconded

all in favor, no objections, no abstentions.

B. Student Fee Board Handbook Changes

1. Numbering Pages

2. Table of Contents

Lawrence: None of the handbooks have page numbers as well as a table content with page numbers. ID committee can work on as well as vote on this. Any motions to vote on numbering pages?

Motioned, seconded

All in favor, no objections, no abstentions.

Lawrence: For all language changes, add to Appendix A. ID committee can start working on this.

VII. Topics of Discussion

A. Overview of the Gavin McInnes Event

- 1. What Happened**
- 2. What are Possible Problems we will face because of it**
- 3. Possible Solutions Moving forwards**

Lawrence: Together We Are event went very well, large student org and student turnout. In the Gavin McInnes event, police from Bellefonte and State College, FBI came. Police had riot gear, cans of mace. Communication from the command center to the police were poor. Protest was declared unlawful around 6:40 pm. One student got arrested. Couple of Proud Boys there, and Gavin McInnes was escorted out. One Proud Boy took out a can of mace and started spraying people, while the police did nothing. He maced a reporter and a cop, then patted one of the cops on the back. No action from the police. No student damages. Around 9:00 pm was when one of remaining protesters against the Proud Boys, the police proceeded to do a walk to clear people out.

From the protest, a lot of backlash was toward Penn State administration. A lot of problems we'll face. The Congressional Research Service creates shorter reports on ranges of topics, so Congressmen can reference. CSR talked about solutions others have tried. Legally, we'll most likely face this problem. Another problem is the use of student money toward the event. Many were incensed because they felt they have a stake of the event. Frank Guadagnino will be coming next week. He thinks that it was a number of things, but funding was not a big portion. I think we'll start facing a number of students wanting to see what we do and what we will do. On Wednesday, the University released a report from the President, where they're no longer

funding the Center for Racial Justice. I think this was poor timing. The money funded toward it will still be allocated to existing initiatives (e.g., some related to racial justice programs). For that, Najee, that could be something the equity fund could look for. A lot of people unhappy, including faculty members, students - that could increase the equity fund request.

Najee: One of the proposals from the Center for Racial Justice was a grouping of graduate assistants that would be funded through the program.

Lawrence: I would expect so. From the faculty members who've referred me to other faculty members, they will most likely be interested in the equity fund.

Other than that, how did Together We Are go?

Sydney: It was a good turnout. But since it was less spontaneous than Love is Louder, it felt like it had a purpose to show unity. One of the things I heard feedback from is proximity to the protest. We could be more intentional if this is a safe space.

Alexa: I think overall the event went well, but I felt there was less energy in Love is Louder comparatively.

Lawrence: For the past couple of weeks, there has been a standoff between the Gavin McInnes event, Together We Area, and the counter protest. I know a lot of people who attended the protest later went to Together We Are.

After being maced, one protester was able to get help quickly at the Hub.

Jada: Wanted to give a heads up. If you knew, the advisor is on the alumni staff. We had the alumni council meeting yesterday, and I confirmed with them. They explained a little bit about

why they can't do anything. But they did talk about what they want to do. They want to do a townhall with alumni. They're planning on reaching out to SFB and UPAC.

Lawrence: Speaking of the statements, the proper channel is StratCom, which we'll need to get permission from in the future. The statements were released through the Collegian.

Conor: Instead of thinking longer term, Uncensored America will do an event in the Spring. Is there anything we can do in the meantime?

Lawrence: I asked Damon and Frank - they suggested that we do nothing when addressing students' concerns about these related events. I think that's wrong, I think we should do something. Any changes we make that changes the way we fund will have to be for the next cycle.

B. Administrative Committee to overview events that have a high likelihood of disruption and violence/Security risk

- 1. Comprised of similar individuals to the ones who cancelled the Gavin McInnes Event, and the Richard Spencer Event**
- 2. Adding language that does not allow funding for events that pose high likelihood of violence, subject to Committee Overview**

Lawrence: I think solutions we can have moving forward is funding rules - things already in University policy. In Chair Notes in Google Docs, I wrote "ADO2A" - university can oversee that events are in the proper time and place. It's also university policy after the Milo speaker event - that it is against university policy to have discriminatory language as that is not protected under first amendment. I want to have that same language in the handbook into our funding decisions. Frank will talk about it more in the next meeting. Unbridled discretion however - needs to be specific enough to get the same results each time.

Another solution was about an administrative committee. This does exist but has never been formalized. We can push this toward Damon. Our police force is also incredibly undiversified. I'm talking to the proper channels to look into this and keep in our minds.

C. Overview of Conversation with Jeff Zapletal, head of Student Leadership and Involvement

Lawrence: Jeff Zapletal also suggested SLI has power to recognize student organizations. We talked about a couple things - do nothing or push energy elsewhere. Also, making it harder to secure rooms.

Alexa: Currently, UPAC does not fund anyone who isn't a recognized student organization.

Lawrence: I know also that UPAC did not release a statement as they were told not to. However, Jeff said that was not the case. They also received little frustration toward their office, yet most frustration was directed toward UPAC and SPA.

Jada: I had two questions. What is SPA getting and why? I understand UPAC.

Lawrence: What does SPA do?

Tony: They host various speakers, events, and concerts.

Sydney: SPA organized Together We Are. Some felt Together We Are was a way to look away from the Gavin McInnes event. That was the backlash.

Tony: The argument is that some students think Together We Are is not strong enough.

Jada: I wanted to know if the alumni staff is unionized.

Lawrence: Barry is not here, but Jolinda?

Jolinda: My inclination is no, but I'm not sure.

Sydney: The alumni association is not unionized.

Lawrence: Another point of backlash toward the university is that much language said in response to the Proud Boys was very noncommittal.

Sydney: One thing is that there is an opportunity for student government to be involved in student advocacy. We could set up a place to collect student questions and concerns, getting to root of policies (e.g., police lack of action during protest).

Lawrence: One thing we should remember is that we are a branch of the University. If you put UPSFB meeting request to the VP's, General Council Office, you will most likely receive a response. One of the things I was also thinking of is that we have lobbyists on the local, state, and federal level. They could help lobby for non-funding efforts. That's another thing we can think about.

VIII. Committee Chair Reports

A. Communications

Sydney: I sent a meeting to the communications committee. I asked everyone to have a first draft edit of the presentation we're working on. I'm also sending a form with headshots and bios.

B. Environment Sustainability Fund

Noah: Waiting for responses from offices.

C. Equity Fund

Najee: I want to make a draft of a PowerPoint to send through Teams. That will be ready hopefully by the end of this weekend.

D. UPAC Chair Report

Alexa: As of yesterday, UPAC has allocated 1.8M for standing allocations - Movin On (700K), travel expenses (230K), programming (860K), operational (3K), equipment (50K), media expenses (8K). In-house, we've went through 368 requests. By the end of last year, we had 500. So we're seeing more requests this year at the moment.

IX. Subject Matter Reports

A. Have they all been reached out to?

Lawrence: Most of our slots for hearings are mainly full. But if your office hasn't submitted a hearing, then they need to get on top of it. We are about $\frac{2}{3}$ done, but if your office hasn't filled out the Calendly link, reach out to them.

B. Alexa

Alexa: I spoke to the Gender Equity Center on Wednesday. I asked if they planned on asking for funding increases. As of now, they're asking for flat funding. They may shift allocations around so they can hire more student workers. They also have good student outreach. Another thing is that their events are exclusive to months, and they always try to reach out to diverse voices when planning an event.

I also reached out to Peter and Douglas from the Sustainability Institute, and we're meeting next Tuesday.

C. Brian

Brian: I met with Steve on Wednesday. He made estimated projections of what recommendations would be - close to \$5M. The increase would be associated with wages. He also understands some money hasn't been carried forward.

Lawrence: During the summer, they received \$1.2M in carry-forward money.

D. Sydney

Sydney: I'm working with connecting all other Big10 schools. Most schools have combined student fee and student government examples. UMichigan's health fee is \$210 - for primary quick clinic, gynecology clinic, physical therapy, nurse advice by phone, STI testing, trans care, sexual assault services, wellness services. I thought that was a good list of things to think about what a health fee would cover. I have scheduled two other meeting to talk about 1. how the fee intersects with insurance and 2. the benchmarking itself.

Lawrence: The money that would go toward Center for Racial Justice. One of those channels is CAPS. I'm going to ask for the list.

E. Yidi

Yidi: I've set up a meeting with Student Disability Resources.

X. Chair Report

A. Frank Guadagnino will be speaking next Friday, November 4

B. CFB will be having a meeting next Friday, November 4

C. Refunds

D. ID - Can we get definitions of the values set up

Lawrence: Frank is one of the VP's of the University. He will speak about the first amendment and what are the bounds for it. We have to get our decisions approved by the University first. We can also push some work toward administration. Some Commonwealth Fee Board members will also be coming here next week.

I will reach out to them to also join their meeting next Friday evening.

Next for ID, underneath "potential definitions" is our values - starting to draft that.

Next thing is refunds. To get around the first amendment, students can opt out of fee, students can get refunds for a lot of events. We've never done this. But this is something we can seriously consider. Only problem is that this is entirely complicated and would result in creation of another office in the Bursar. Also, some graduate students who do not use current resources may choose to receive refunds for much of their fee as well.

Also what happens when administration says no. Our recommendations are non-binding to affairs. We should probably have a process in place. We emergency-convene and then reallocate. I assume it would go to our facilities reserve. Jolinda, I know this has never happened before, but what would happen to the extra money.

Jolinda: Since you're making decisions for the next year, the fee would reflect it.

Lawrence: Thank you for bearing with me Sunday and Tuesday night. None of organizations I have sent the statements out to have sent any concerns.

XI. Comments for Good of the Order

Alexa: Previously, we were talking about the values. We have a document that we created last year with those. I've sent it over to you.

Lawrence: You need to reach out the week after the hearings if you want to participate in votings. If you want to participate but are not in attendance, send questions.

XII. Closing Roll Call

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.